

# BIG DOUBLE PAGE OF SPORT NEWS

## QUARTET OF STARS

### Mack's Bunch of Great Infielders Wonderful Combination

Philadelphia, March 15.—In remodeling the various big league baseball outfits for the 1915 campaign, every manager excepting one will have to devote at least part of his attention to the inner breastworks. The Athletics alone possess an infield that looks up as near to a perfect combination as ever graced a diamond.

There are those intimately connected with the pastime who say this statement goes for all time—past and present. However, that may be, there is not the shadow of a doubt that Connie Mack today has a quartet of stars head and shoulders above any string of infielders taken collectively or as a team.

**Great Quartet.**  
An attempt to improve the combination would indeed be trying to "paint the lily." The fact, too, that the other managers will have to tinker with their first line of defense makes them stand out all the more prominently. Delving into the dust laden records for comparisons, we fail to uncover another quartet of this mold. And there have been many number of sterling collections.

There have been wonderful four-ply combinations that excelled in one department or another, yet when one considers them from an all-round standpoint, Mack's bunch of all-stars seems entitled to the laurel wreath. There is not a weakness in the set. Every one of them is a finished ball player viewed from all angles.

**Best in Class.**  
Speed, agility, consistency and strategy are all to be found in the number. In defense as well as offense every man of the lot is there able to uphold his end with the best in his class. Collectively they bat far above the .300 mark, only one of the number having an average below the coveted figure that is a sign of excellence. Barry, the weakest batter, finished last season with an average of .261, all the others being rated above the .300 point. In fielding, too, these men have percentages that compare well with their batting prowess. Two of them, Barry and Baker—led the league last season in their respective positions. The others, while topped so far as figures are concerned, are of such splendid ability that they are considered as good if not better than their rivals.

**Mack's Stars.**  
A unique fact in connection with Mack's stars is that the astute leader welded this combination in almost a season. When the baseball machine that emerged from the world series pennant fight with colors dragged in the dust began to crumble and fall apart, Connie looked around for new material.

He picked up three stars that now form part of the present set, all but Stuff McInnis. Two of these had not even played in the major leagues, while the others never had a regular job. But in the short space of a season with the aid of Veteran Harry Davis, the so-called bushers flashed into the front ranks and were acclaimed stars. Every one of them won the praise of the experts, many of whom had predicted nothing but disaster for them at the start of the race.

**Mystery of Last Season.**  
The following season those players were the leading factors in bringing a world title to the Quaker city, which they duplicated the next year. It was one of the mysteries of the last season why the team should have been beaten with such players as McInnis, Collins, Barry and Baker in the lineup.

When the Giants were humbled by them in the fall of 1911 the news went out that Mack had an outfit that would stand the test of time for years to come. Last spring the critics were almost unanimous in picking them to repeat. In fact, there are many fans who cannot figure out to this day how the Red Sox and Senators managed to beat them out in the race.

Although they did not play up to

their 1911 season's form, they were, nevertheless, superior to other lineups, and were looked upon to carry the team to victory even after the pitching staff toppled and the outfield failed to hold.

#### Team Will Be Favorite.

Mack's team will be one of the favorites in next season's race. If his pitchers brace up and the outfield lives up to the promises there is no reason why the team should not center home for the infield looms up just as strong as at the finish of the 1911 campaign.

McInnis, who supplanted the veteran Harry Davis at first in 1911, finished the season with a batting average of .327. Next to Hal Chase, there is no better first baseman. His fielding is sensational. Some of the one-hand stops that Stuff makes are marvelous. He appears to be improving all the time, too, if that is possible. Although he is rated as the slowest base runner of the quartet, he got away with 23 pilfer trips last year.

#### Real Speed.

Collins is the real speed king of the bunch. The former Columbia student, who surprised the fans by stealing 81 sacks in 1908, this being the greatest number stolen by any player since the days of Bill Lange, got away with 63 cushions in 1912, twice stealing six bases in a single game. To show, too, that he is not going back, Eddie banged the horsehide at a .348 clip. Baker was just one point below him.

There are some who thought John Franklin was a bit below form last season, but his figures at the end of the race showed that he did his share of good work.

**Barry Leads Shortstops.**  
Barry led all the shortstops in the league for the past two years. Last year he batted .261, which is close to the average he earned in former seasons.

## GRIFF WINS BOTH WAYS

### Gets Washington Opening Game and Cops First New York Date

Washington, Mar. 15.—Clark Griffith is to be congratulated.

Last year he, as a manager and one of the stockholders of the Washington American league team, had the satisfaction of seeing the Nationals change from a team of "also-rans" into one of the most powerful baseball clubs in the country. Now he has drawn two plums from the schedule makers which are sure to cause the shekels to drop merrily into the Washington club treasury and incidentally into Griffith's pockets.

The American league fans are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to see the New York teams under the management of Frank Chance. New Yorkers are now, because of the fact that Chance is part of the New York Americans, beginning to admit that the Giants are not the only team in Gotham. When the Highlanders make their first appearance at the Polo grounds, the crowd is certainly sure to be a big one.

**Wins Both Ways.**  
Griffith wins both ways. He gets the Highlanders at Washington for the opening game of the season, and likewise cops the opening date of the American league season in New York.

Clark Griffith's Washingtons will open the American league season with Frank Chance's New Yorks at the Polo Grounds on April 17. Griffith is enthusiastic over the arrangement. Griffith is also well pleased with the fact that the New Yorks will begin the championship race in Washington on April 19, and that the Senators have received the Fourth of July plum at the Brush stadium. The Washington manager already has announced that Walter J. Johnson will pitch against Chance's men of April 19 until 17, which means that the New Yorks will have to fight for all they are worth to carry off the honors.

## Two Grapplers Who Meet at the Orpheum March 26



JACK HARBERTSON

If the most arduous kind of training counts for success on the padded mat, Jack Harbertson should feel confident. The popular local boy on whom the sport-loving public of Ogden is resting its hopes in the big contest with Irslinger at the Orpheum theater a week from Wednesday, is putting in some of the most strenuous days of his career just at present in an endeavor to fit himself for the big grappling match.

Six to seven hours a day of the most grueling kind of road and mat work are putting Harbertson in great condition. His daily grind consists of a jaunt up to the Hermitage and back in the morning, followed by three hours of mat work, then into the bath with a brisk rubdown. After lunch comes a brief rest, then two or three hours more matwork with his wrestling partners.

Pete Fisher, Sam English and Ed Ferguson are about as hefty a trio as any wrestler ever worked out with, but they all look alike to Jack and he slams them around with ease, despite the fact that they each and severally outweigh him. Fisher weighs 195, English 175 and Ferguson about the same, while Harbertson said last night that he was tipping the beam these days around 159 and 160.

Harbertson declared to the Standard last evening that his course of training already has been more prolonged and strenuous than for any match which he had ever signed up for. "I feel as fit as a fiddle right now," said Jack. "I am training hard and never felt better in my life, and if this man Irslinger beats me I won't have a word to say in excuse, for barring accidents I will be in the best condition ever." And everyone who knows Jack feels pretty certain that that means he will be unbeatable.

Harbertson is inclined to uphold this paper's contention yesterday that Irslinger is the real title-holder in the

middleweight class. "I've thought all along," said he, "that the Austrian is a more worthy opponent than Yokel. He has the proof to show that he is the champion, and that's what counts. Everything goes to show that he 'has it on' Yokel, and if I can beat the European, I believe I can turn the trick on Mike, too."

Inasmuch as Yokel has given it out (and we have it from several authoritative sources) that if Irslinger beats Harbertson he (Yokel) purposes to literally take to the woods until the Austrian leaves this section of the country, Harbertson's contention that Irslinger is the best of the middleweights would seem to be logical.

T. B. Kelly, Harbertson's manager, is supremely confident that his protégé will prove himself to be the better man in the coming bout and has it all doped out why Jack will win. "If they go an hour without a fall," says Kelly, "you can sit back in your chair and rest content for Jack will tire him out." And Harbertson's apparent freshness after two and a half hours of work with Gel-rink in their match a few weeks ago would make it appear that Manager Kelly knows whereof he speaks.

Irslinger has been in this country six weeks and in that time has appeared on the mat five times. His last match was with John Gold in Paterson, N. J., a week ago last night and the story of the battle is reproduced from the Paterson Morning Call of last Saturday as follows:

Henry Irslinger, the clever Austrian middleweight wrestler, defeated John Gold of the People's Park A. A. in two straight falls in their match at the Orpheum theater last evening. Irslinger secured the first fall in eight minutes and the second in twelve minutes and thirty seconds.

A great deal was expected of the local boy, but he was no match for Irslinger. The latter showed that he is one of the best men in the wrestling game. Gold gave him a better go than any of the men that have

HENRY IRSLINGER

faced him in this city, but Irslinger's cleverness was Gold's undoing.

When the men came on the mat it was evident that both were in perfect condition. Irslinger was the taller of the two, but there was little, if any difference in their weight. As soon as the men shook hands Irslinger went after Gold, and in less than a minute he had Gold on the mat. The latter managed to escape his opponent's hold and arose to his feet.

Irslinger was not troubled by this, but kept right after the local boy, and finally floored him again. He went after the deadly scissors' hold, by which he has defeated so many opponents. Gold was ready for this and tried to jump to his feet. Irslinger blocked the move, however, and managed to get his favorite hold. Gold struggled like a demon to get free, but Irslinger just put on a little more pressure, and finally rolled Gold over until his shoulders rested on the mat. Gold rolled from one side to the other in an endeavor to get free, but he was finally pinned. The time of fall was eight minutes.

After a rest of five minutes the men came out on the mat again. Gold was very cautious, and Irslinger did not take any foolish chances. He had the local boy on the mat several times and tried for his favorite hold, but Gold managed to break it every time.

Irslinger finally gave it up as a hopeless task and shifted to a crotch hold. He got Gold on one shoulder, but the local man managed to twist out of it and get to his feet. Gold took the aggressive at this stage of the bout and surprised the fans by putting Irslinger on the defense. Gold tried for a half-nelson, but Irslinger spun out of it and secured a double leg hold. Gold knew that he was in grave danger and tried hard to get away. Irslinger held his advantage, however, and finally forced Gold's shoulders flat on the canvas. The time of the fall was twelve minutes and thirty seconds.

## JENNINGS IS WRONG

### Spring Training Trips Will Not be Abolished by Big Leaguers

New York, Mar. 15.—No less eminent authority than Hughey Jennings considers the possibility of the abolition of spring training trips by the big leaguers a year or so hence. The "Tiger" manager speaks of the intention of the Ball Players' Fraternity to ask the National and American league club owners to pay salaries to their players during the spring training trip. He says the expenses of the trip are so great already that, if the clubs had to pay their men through all the time that they did duty under the manager, the trips would have to be abandoned.

Hughey is wrong. The trips will not be abandoned, no matter what may be done in the matter of training time pay.

Jennings points to the fact that a ball player is in the only business in the world where a man has all his expenses paid while getting into condition to earn his salary. He says that, if wages were compulsory during a training trip, then the clubs would cut out the trip and instead insist on each player getting himself fit and be in shape to start work at the proper time the same as a man in any other line of endeavor.

**Practice a Necessity.**  
Imagine a big league team taking the field on opening day without having been together at all for practice. Lovely state of affairs. Also the average fan can make a good guess as to how well the average player would have conditioned himself if he had to do it on his own account. If half the teams would do this and the other half adhere to the usual routine of spring trips, there would be a beautifully unbalanced pennant race.

An order to pay the salaries during the southern tour would not bring about any such conditions. It would do something entirely different. The annual earnings of each player would remain the same, and the amount per month would be the only thing changed. A man who now receives \$6000 a year at the rate of \$1000 for each of six months, would get the same \$6000, but figured on a basis of \$837.50 for each of seven months. The players would gain nothing by an agreement to pay salaries during training trips.

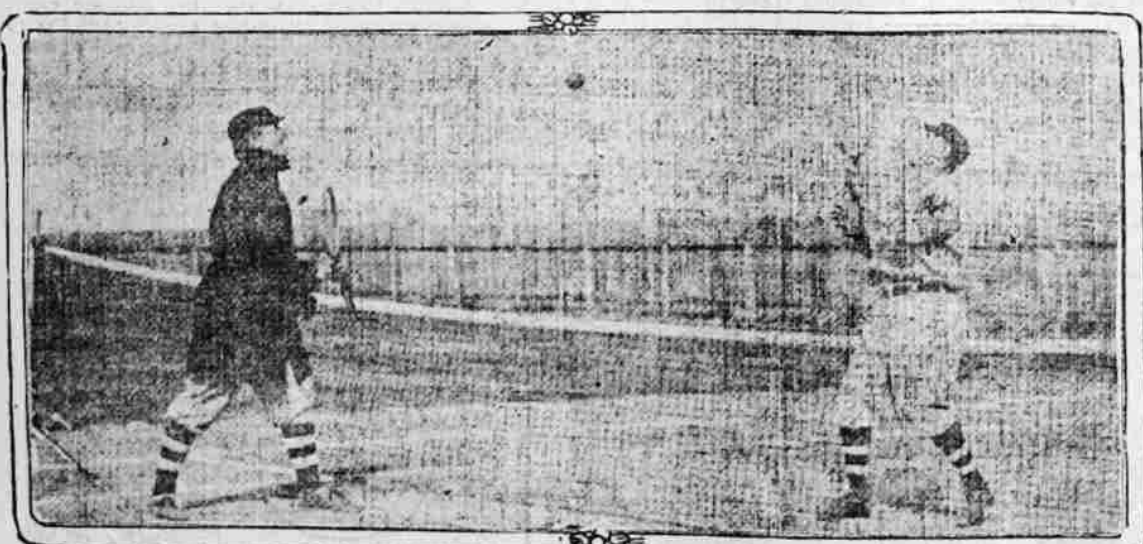
**Would Benefit Clubs.**  
But such a situation would revert to the benefit of the clubs. It would cut the number of holdouts down to a minimum. Many of these who bluff the club owners with demands for raises and then come to terms just in time to start the season or shortly before, are actuated by nothing but business. If a player would be in a position to lose some of his money by not reporting on time, then holdouts would become almost extinct. With such possibilities to the proposition, it seems as if the two leagues would be foolish if they should refuse to accede to the demands of the players.

**No Real Holdouts.**  
There are practically no real holdouts in the full sense of the term—men who intend absolutely to stick to the ultimatum they deliver or get out of baseball. Only two notable instances of such holdouts can be cited offhand in the persons of Fielder Jones and Orville Overall. The rest simply are trying to make the managers come across with as much as possible; if the manager will not fall for the call, they will sign anyway. Give the players the new rule, Hughey Jennings' opinion, to the contrary notwithstanding.

## ROOTERS DOPING OUT THE LINEUP

Boston, Mar. 15.—Loyal rooters of the Boston National league team are doping out all sorts of lineups for Manager Stallings to slam together in attempting to accomplish his superhuman task of boosting the Braves out of the cellar.

## TENNIS GOOD TRAINING FOR GREAT TWIRLERS



The above photograph shows two of the greatest pitchers in the National league, George Wiltse at the left, and Christy Mathewson, both of the New York Giants.

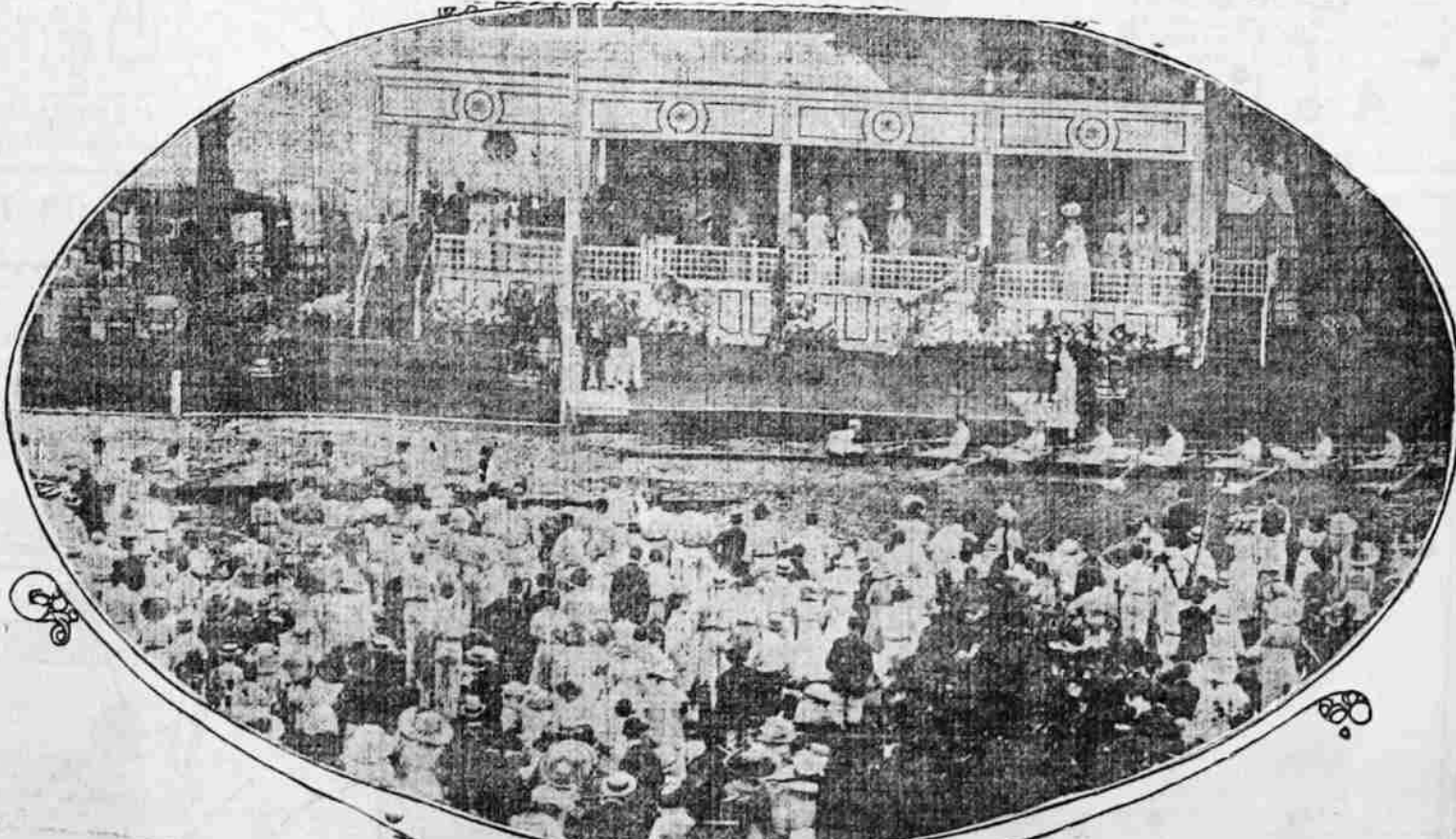
### BEN BRUSH IS SOLD

Johnson N. Camden has purchased the thoroughbred stallion Ben Brush from the estate of the late James R. Keene for \$10,000. Ben Brush is a son of Bramble and Roseville, by Reform, and during his racing career was one of the truly great performers of the American turf. He started forty times, won twenty-five races, was five times second and five times

third. As a sire he has been a success, and in 1909 his produce put his name at the head of the winning list, with a total of \$75,475. Among the well-known horses of which he is the sire are Broomstick, winner of a Brighton handicap and holder of the American record for one mile and a quarter; Delhi, Sweep, Besom, Grotna Green, Moggy Hill, Trance, the speed marvel; Wedding Bells, Lady Amelia

and several other good ones. In more prosperous years of the turf such a horse would not be in the market, but if so, undoubtedly he would have brought at least four times the price Mr. Camden paid for him. His established reputation in the stud makes him a valuable addition to the Camden breeding farm. Since the Castleton stallions have been available Ben Brush has been standing at a fee of \$300.

## HISTORIC ROWING RIVALS TEST SKILL ON THAMES TODAY



London, March 15.—Thousands of thousands of gaily dressed men and women left London early today for points of vantage along the

course on the Thames, where the sixty-eight crews of Oxford and Cambridge universities will fight out their annual rowing duel.

Both crews have shown up well in practice so that the majority of bets on the outcome have been made at even money, although the graduates

and followers of Oxford, buoyed up by the victories of the last four years, appear even more confident than the supporters of the Cambridge oarsmen.